

LAURA SYLVIA HERMAN

Country of origin: France
Programme: Master Transportation Sciences,
specialisation Mobility Management
Graduated: 2015



The covid times are here, the air tastes sour and the whole world is feeling sick. Even with all these troubles, the social beings in us cannot keep calm and thus we are asked by the state if we must meet, then it must be done virtually. I am lucky to hold a zoom meeting with one-time Brussels' Public Transport, Mobility Expert. She travelled all the way from France to come be part of the great Hasselt University. The blissful Laura Herman shares her experiences and the reasons that keep drawing her back to Hasselt. This is how our interview went down.

What was your year of enrolment?

I joined Hasselt University from 2013-2015.

Why did you choose Hasselt University?

It was the only university offering Transportation Sciences, specialising in Mobility Management. The fact that I was looking for a university teaching either Transportation Sciences or a Master of Sciences in Urbanization and having English as the teaching language, made me choose Hasselt.

Did the course meet your expectations?

In a way, although they focused mainly on traffic car safety rather than all modes of transport.

Do you have any suggestions or improvement on the course content presentation?

The course should focus mainly or more on modelling, for instance when giving examples they should offer solutions to the problems on cycling, sustainable transport, human traffic and etc.

Which lecturer inspired you the most?

They were actually all instrumental.

What are some of your experiences at Hasselt University i.e. the best and worst memories of U Hasselt?

My best memories were that I fell in love with the university, the cafeteria and the whole ambience was so beautiful. And my worst is that the lecturers were more experts/scientists rather than teachers, hence making their teaching mode complex.

After graduation, did you get a job in line with the masters?

Yes! I got the chance to work with the Public Transport Authority of Brussels for 4 years, where I was a mobility expert. My team had the duty of modifying transport models and scheduling the trams. The masters helped me a lot in getting the tools to understand how the system works.

What advice can you give future students?

They should be curious, learn and ask as many questions as possible, take initiatives on their own by visiting the research institutions and be autonomous.

Lastly, what continues to draw you back to UHasselt Community?

The people that I met there who are now the alumni had good human contact and they motivated me to join them in what they were doing.

